Brief Notes

Swarasadhnotsav In Bombay

The Swar Sadhna Samiti conducted its 27th annual sangeet sammelan— Swarasadhnotsav— 7-9 March in Bombay. It also marked the completion of the 365th monthly programme organised by the Samiti which was founded in the early sixties by Keki S. Jijina and Aban E. Mistry to promote young talent in the field of the performing arts. The Samiti has been conducting sangeet sammelans for children; competitions for amateur performers; organising leedems; encouraging the learning of music under the traditional guru-shishya parampara; and encouraging and assisting talented and sincere students interested in the arts.

Recently, the Samiti established an Artists' Fund to provide financial assistance to poor artists.

The Samiti runs a music school called the Wadia Sangeet Class, for vocal and instrumental music. It is headed by Keki S. Jijina.

This year too, as in previous years, the Swarasadhnotsav featured both Hindustani and Carnatic musicians. Among them: Arti Ankalikar Tikekar, Ashwini Bhide Deshpande, Babanrao Haldankar, Chimanlal Padia (all vocal); Abdul Halim Jaffar Khan (sitar); Nityanand Haldipur (flute); Chhatrapati Singh (pakhawaj); and Nizamuddin Khan (tabla).

Dancers who performed in this year's Swarasadhnotsav were Smita Shastri of Ahmedabad (Kuchipudi);

Nandakumar conducting a talavadya kutcheri by his youth ensemble. *The Art of Rhythm*, a recording of two compositions, one in Hamsadhwani and the other in Kambhoji, played by this ensemble has just been released. It is marketed by Gitaa Cassettes).

Kapila Raj Sharma, a disciple of Lachhu Maharaj (Kathak); and students of Guru Mani of Kalasadan, Bombay (Bharatanatyam). A tala vadya kutcheri was also presented on the occasion by students of Ambalapuzha T.S. Nandakumar.

This year the Samiti conferred the title of Swar Sadhna Ratna on Khadim Husain Khan (H-vocal), Abdul Halim Jaffar Khan (H-sitar), Chhatrapati Singh (pakhawaj), Guru Mani (Bharatanatyam) and Mohan Nadkarni (music critic). □

Music Festival In Udupi

Raga Dhana is an organisation that has been working to promote young performers in the field of art music in Udupi. It has showcased nearly 150 performers since its inception in 1989. Its schedule of programmes includes at least two ragam-tanam-pallavi concerts a year by well known musicians and also leedems. A leedem given in 1991, by Prof. M. Rajagopalacharya and E.D. Narayana Pisharodi, was on the subject of raga and tala.

Raga Dhana has been conducting a music festival every year in memory of Tyagaraja and Purandaradasa. The festival this year was held during 8-10 May. There was group rendering of Tyagaraja's Pancharatna kriti-s, led by Mathoor P. Balasubramanyam. Individual performers featured were: Suresh K Nair of Calicut (C-vocal), M. Ramani of Mangalore (H-vocal), N. Chetana Arya (C-vocal), P. Unnikrishnan of Madras (C-vocal), nine-year old Kanjani (C-vocal); and K. Ravichandra and Prapancham S. Hariharendra (flute).

Unnikrishnan, Venugopal Shanbhogue, Gururaj & Ganeshamurthy

This year Raga Dhana took up a project to produce three music cassettes. The cassettes, with music by Mathoor P. Balasubramanyam (two cassettes) and Rajarajeshwary (one cassette), were released on the inaugural day of the festival.

ARAVINDA

Workshop On *Abhinaya Darpana*

Nandikeswara's *Abhinaya Darpana* has been claimed by its author to be an abridgement of *Bharatarnava*, an exposition on the art of dance. Its 324 slokas present, according to Ananda Coomaraswamy, the essentials of natya or dance used in a drama; nritta or dance void of rasa (flavour) or bhava (mood); and nritya, or dance possessing flavour, mood and suggestion and the contributing aesthetic qualities. It is, in short, a manual of gestures which every aspiring dancer